1	2
2005	5731 US $ million
2006	6569 US $ million

Tourism in concurrent list

420. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: SHRI
KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring tourism in the concurrent list of the Constitution for the orderly growth of the sector on a pan-India basis and the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce has recommended that the empowered Centre can play a more proactive role in developing the tourism sector and there is a need that tax structure be harmonized to ensure uniformity of levying tax on tourism related sectors like hotels, tour operators and travel services etc.; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering the suggestion as India is becoming one of the tourist destinations with its varied and rich natural endowments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The issue of inclusion of Tourism in the Concurrent List of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution had earlier been examined by the Ministry of Tourism. It was felt that since "Tourism" is not appearing in any of the three lists of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution, the Central Government is competent to legislate on any matter under the residuary powers. After detailed examination and taking into account all the factors, it was decided that the matter should be dropped.

The Ministry of Tourism functions as the nodal agency for development of tourism in the country. Some of the steps taken up by the Ministry for development of the tourism sector in the country include development of tourist spots under its various schemes of infrastructure development for tourist circuits and destinations, taking up promotional activities in overseas markets through various media to attract more tourists to India, requesting State Governments to set up Tourist Police and deploy them at important popular tourist destinations for safety and security of tourists, launching of a social awareness campaign "Atithi Devo Bhavah" to sensitize the stakeholders in tourism, and the public in general, and granting recognition/approval to Guides/Travel Agents and Transport Operators in order to standardize their services and to avoid unscrupulous activities, fleecing, overcharging etc. by them.

The Ministry of Tourism also liaises with various Ministries/Departments on issues like availability of visa timely, good airports, cheap airfares, good air connectivity, sufficient and affordable accommodation units, proper road and rail connectivity of the destinations to the National Highways, entry permits for restricted areas, rationalization of taxes, etc. as well as to sort out any issues detrimental to the overall tourism development.